

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 have been examined. The Examiner continues to reject claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of DE 19514718 to Eigenstetter ("Eigenstetter"). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter.

**I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Eigenstetter. However, since claim 1 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

**II. Allowable Subject Matter**

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter. Since claim 1 and withdrawn claims 4-6 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance.

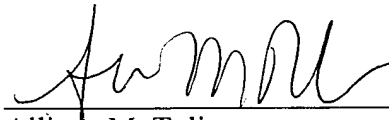
**III. Conclusion**

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No. 10/601,677

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. Tulino  
Registration No. 48,294

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 30, 2006 (since October 28, 2006 fell on a Saturday).